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" (c) The only request made in the memorial to this Government was that the issue price of salt in the fish-curing yards on the West Coast should be reduced from Rs. 2-8-0 per maund to Rs. 1-4-0 per maund. The request was not accepted. The Association has also sent another memorial to the Government of India in which they have made various allegations and suggestions. The Government of India called for the remarks of this Government on the Memorial and a reply was sent to the Government of India.

" (d) Yes. The question is again under the consideration of the Government."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

V.—DERAILMENT OF CALCUTTA MAIL.

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move—

' *This House deeply sympathises with the victims and the families of the dead in the recent Calcutta Mail disaster and strongly condemns those responsible for the tragedy if it was due to sabotage, and thanks Providence for the miraculous escape of our Chairman. While appreciating the prompt relief arrangements made by the Government, the Railway Authorities, the Police, certain public bodies and persons, this House recommends to the Government to take up with the Government of India adequate measures for relieving the distress caused by this disaster and to take immediate and effective steps to prevent similar occurrences in future—steps for which in the opinion of this House the public should give their closest co-operation and active support.*'

" This House is meeting under the shadow of a great tragedy, one of the greatest tragedies that has overtaken this State. Newspapers have published the details. On the night of Friday, the 3rd March 1950, the engine of the Calcutta Mail Train capsized, all except the last bogey went off the rail, six persons died on the spot, ninety-six were injured and out of them six very seriously. The sympathies of not only the Members of this House but of every man in this country are with the victims and the families of the dead. I do not want to commit this House that the disaster was due to sabotage. On the evidence collected by senior railway officials, ordinary people come to the conclusion that it must have been a result of sabotage. If the sabotage was organized by any political party in opposition to the Government, we must very strongly condemn the subversive activities of that party. The Opposition has very severely criticised the Government whenever they interfered with the personal freedom of the individual. As I have often said, the Opposition is behind the Government in the enforcement of law and order which is the primary responsibility of any Government. Is the sabotage aimed at any politician, Minister or other important person in charge of the Government

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of this State or of this country or is it aimed at endangering the lives of innocent persons? There may be travelling in a train businessmen, Government officers and all kinds of people particularly people who are employed in railway service itself. This sabotage is an act of madness. The Government must be supported in every step they take to combat subversive activities of individuals or parties. The other day, I congratulated the Government on keeping order and compared the order in this State with the order maintained in Bengal. The tragedy shows that there are many persons who are active in creating disorder and endangering the lives of innocent persons. Such persons should be condemned very strongly by this House as representing the people. It is not possible for the Government, the Police or the Railway officials alone to combat subversive activities carried on by a section of the people. I think it is the bounden duty of every individual, particularly every public man, to give the Government his active support and co-operation. Such acts will only sound the death-knell of the party. No sane man will tolerate or support a party which calls itself a political party, which does not believe in a democratic structure of society and therefore does not believe in the Constitution which we have framed, and indulges in subversive activities, especially after the great tragedy that occurred on Friday night.

" This House is particularly concerned with our Chairman, who was a victim of the tragedy. We are glad of his miraculous escape and we are thankful to Providence that he, who has served the public for many years and is expected to serve the public for many more years, has been spared. We are very pleased that Sri Kala Venkata Rao, who was also travelling in that train, was not hurt.

" The object of my moving this motion is to condemn strongly the organizers of sabotage particularly derailment of trains. If such activities continue, it will be impossible for innocent people to travel by trains which provide the one means of long-distance travel. Therefore it becomes the imperative duty of all people to co-operate with the Government and see that public opinion is created and every step is taken to avoid a recurrence of similar tragedy, and to maintain the reputation and prestige of our State unimpaired in the eyes of the other States, the Government of India, and the outside world."

Sri P. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" Why should not the hon. Member say all these things in the budget discussion which we are going to have? "

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" It is not a point of order. This is a very important matter."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" I thought that everybody would welcome and support a motion like this unanimously. There is perhaps some misunderstanding by the hon. Member. I want to pay a very high compliment to those who have helped the injured people. I must pay my compliments to Sri Kala Venkata Rao who was on the

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spot, to Mrs. Ammana Raja, Mrs. Madhava Menon and the Ministers who went to the place soon after the occurrence, and assisted in relief measures. It is said very often that we do not compliment the Police on the difficult task of putting down subversive activities in which they are engaged. I want to say that we are one with the Police and we appreciate their great service. Their lives and the life of the Minister in charge of law and order are in danger. If the subversive activities of people are encouraged and not put down, it will be the beginning of the end of our Constitution. Our Constitution provides for a democratic form of Government. If some party wants to oppose the Government and get into power, the only way for it is to resort to the polling booth and not to subversive activities.

"I hope that everybody will support my motion and that we make a resolution to give our closest co-operation and active support to the Government, the Police and all others engaged in putting down subversive activities."

* JANAB K. UPPI :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, we are, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said, sitting here to-day under the shadow of a great tragedy but at the same time with feelings of great relief. Sir, we have first to offer our grateful thanks to Almighty God for the miraculous escape of our beloved Chairman, and we also offer our hearty congratulations to him on his providential escape. We also send out our deep condolence to the families of the bereaved, who became victims of this unfortunate tragedy. Our sympathies will also go out to those other injured persons who are now suffering. 11-30 a.m.

" Sir, at the same time, we have been repeatedly saying that so far as our Party is concerned, we shall be one with the Government in whatever steps they take in putting down lawlessness in the country. We have also been repeatedly saying that we are one with the Government in suppressing the activities of those who are out to subvert the existing order of things. These kinds of subversive activities have been going on day after day and this is only one more example of the way in which they are trying to oust the Government in power and to establish themselves in the country. May God save us from those people who want to get power into their hands in this manner, to rule over us and to make us their automatons and to treat us as animals! May God help, that such a situation does not at all arise in this country.

" With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" The motion is—

'that this House deeply sympathizes with the victims and the families of the dead in the recent Calcutta Mail disaster and strongly condemns those responsible for the tragedy if it was due to sabotage, and thanks Providence for the miraculous escape of our Chairman. While appreciating the prompt relief arrangements made by the Government, the Railway authorities, the Police, certain public bodies and persons, this House recommends to

the Government to take up with the Government of India adequate measures for relieving the distress caused by this disaster and to take immediate and effective steps to prevent similar occurrences in future—steps for which in the opinion of this House the public should give their closest co-operation and active support '."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, speaking as the Leader of this House and on behalf of this Government, I beg to associate myself with the fine sentiments of sympathy and fellow-feeling expressed by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. This is certainly a ghastly tragedy. This deed on the part of those who designed it, is indeed so cruel and heartless in its results, that there is no use of expressing mere sympathies alone, because this event, which has resulted in the deaths and sufferings of so many innocent men, women and children, owing to the wicked design of a person or group of persons, has cast a shadow of darkness in the minds of the people of this Province and in the minds of the Members of this Legislature. But out of evil cometh good and even so, this tragedy has brought out some redeeming features of the sense of humanity in us. The wonderful relief that was immediately and spontaneously rendered to the unfortunate victims of that accident, by all the people near the scene, proves, in fact the goodwill and the good-nature of our people who responded to the call of these suffering humanity, to do what they could by way of assistance, wholeheartedly and selflessly, speaks volumes of them. The Government of Madras also feel satisfied that their subordinates and their servants had not lagged behind in rendering their part of assistance and service to the victims of this tragedy, which befits them as true servants of the State in the discharge of their public duties. The officers of the Police department, within an hour of this incident, along with the Deputy Inspector-General of Police were at the scene of accident, rendering all possible help and service to the victims, and we should indeed praise them for what they have done in such a short time because it is the Police of the State, and particularly of the Democratic State like ours, that should be prompt and vigilant and act in the manner in which they have acted at the present instance. It is also happy to record, Sir, that a number of our people who could have comfortably taken refuge in their houses, should have rushed up to the scene of accident and rendered such help as was possible and necessary. I cannot but mention, in this connexion, that the Members of the Government in the person of my Hon. Colleagues Mr. Bhaktavatsalam and Mr. Sitarama Reddi, immediately on hearing the news of the disaster rushed to the spot and made enquiries and arrangements for affording necessary relief to the concerned victims. Mrs. Ammanna Raja, our Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, along with Mrs. Madhava Menon, who are always active in anything pertaining to the welfare of women and children and who are always ready to render service to the sick and the suffering, also rushed up to the spot and arranged for the immediate relief and treatment of the sufferers, for which they

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deserve our hearty congratulations and gratitude. It is also indeed fortunate that my hon. Friend, Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, who was one of the passengers of the train miraculously escaped, with his usual preparedness for service, ran up to the next station and informed the Railway authorities and the Government about the accident, and stood up on the road stopping every bit of conveyance on the way, demanding their help and aid to render assistance to the victims, which was readily given by them. Such spontaneous feelings of sympathy on the part of every one of those who were present on the scene of the accident and of the people in the area who were prepared to render whatever help they possibly could, really demonstrate the inherent goodness of our people and their readiness to help in the hour of need. Our hearts really go to those unfortunate and innocent victims of the tragedy who have lost their lives and to the members of the bereaved family. There are many people who have received injuries and I do not know how many of them will survive, but they have all been removed to places where they could be well-attended to and well-treated.

" Sir, it is not my intention to speak about the magnitude or the dastardliness of this crime on the part of those who designed it and the inhumanity they had shown in perpetrating this crime against innocent and peaceful citizens. We have taken charge of the whole situation and I am sure we can render a good account of ourselves and we shall see that such events, as far as it is humanly possible, are prevented in the future. It is indeed strange that such events should happen in this Province of Madras. That we have been threatened with such things during the past few months, goes without saying. But a pre-arranged design of this sort, bringing such deaths and disaster to thousands of innocent people, is something which could not be thought of lightly and I am sure that the Government of Madras and the Government of India will jointly do their best to save our people from such catastrophies and disasters in the future.

" Sir, I had a personal talk with our Chairman, towards whom we have the highest regard, respect and love and whose services and good intentions are so well known to us. He had, as we know, a miraculous escape, and it is pleasing to learn from him how wonderfully he was attended to in such a strange place and at such an hour, and how his injuries were dressed with up-to-date medicines and how he was given injections, etc., by the people and the doctors who were on the spot, and all these clearly show that the willingness and the goodness of the people to help in times of need are always there. Others who received similar injuries, were also similarly treated and those who could be taken to places where they could get better treatment of their injuries had been taken to such places and I do hope and trust that very soon they will be healed of their injuries and survive this ghastly tragedy. It is really unfortunate that on this opening day of this Legislature, we have to witness a tragedy of such a magnitude and to record our feelings of deep sorrow and concern over it. But, it has given us, as human beings, and as Members of the Legislature to do our little bit of service to the people of this State."

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The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" The question is—

' that this House deeply sympathizes with the victims and the families of the dead in the recent Calcutta Mail disaster and strongly condemns those who are responsible for the tragedy if it was due to sabotage, and thanks Providence for the miraculous escape of our Chairman. While appreciating the prompt relief arrangements made by the Government, the Railway authorities, the police, certain public bodies and persons, this House recommends to the Government to take up with the Government of India adequate measures for relieving the distress caused by this disaster and to take immediate and effective steps to prevent similar occurrances in future—steps for which in the opinion of this House the public should give their closest co-operation and active support '."

This Resolution was carried *nem con.*

VI.—PROCEDURE FOR INTRODUCING BUDGET UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

Janab K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" On a point of information, Sir, I want to know what procedure is going to be followed by the House with regard to the budget for the year 1950–51, especially in view of the specific provision contained in Article 204 of the New Constitution, laying down the procedure in regard to Appropriation Bills. In that case, Sir, we shall have to discuss the budget twice, because after the budget has been passed in the Legislative Assembly, the Appropriation Bill has to be brought before the Assembly and after it is passed there, it has to come before this House. We shall have to discuss the budget twice according to the procedure prescribed in Article 204 of the Constitution, as we are now governed by the provisions of the Constitution Act.

" Secondly, Sir, from the manner in which the budget has been introduced before this House this year, I surmise that the old procedure is being followed, although a different procedure has been prescribed under the New Constitution regarding Appropriation Bills.

11-45 a.m. " Last year, I drew the attention of the House and of the President to the fact that the presentation of the budget became stale on account of the fact that the same speech was read here. It was agreed by the Leader of the House that the procedure of presenting the budget simultaneously might be adopted following the procedure adopted in the House of Commons, or the procedure that was being adopted in the Central Assembly and also in this House during the previous Congress Cabinet. When we had agreed on this point, I do not know why the budget was presented here only in the afternoon. There is nothing against the presentation of the budget simultaneously in both the Houses under the Constitution. Article 202 of the Constitution says—

' 202. (1) The Governor shall in respect of every financial year cause to be laid before the House or Houses of the Legislature of the State a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State for that year, in this part referred to as the annual financial statement.'